



GRAFFITI VANDALISM IS ILLEGAL

Graffiti vandalism is any form of writing, drawing, etching or applying stickers to any public or private property without permission from the owner.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD IS DOING GRAFFITI VANDALISM

- Discuss your concerns with your child, remembering that there may be other issues that are causing them to graffiti;
- Explain that graffiti is an illegal activity and let them know what the consequences are;
- Know where your child is and who they are with;
- Share your concerns with your child's teachers – they may be able to give you some advice or alleviate your concerns; or
- If you'd like further assistance with your child there are places that you can contact for help – see the Goodbye Graffiti website for more information.

KEEPING YOUR CHILD BUSY

It is important that you involve your child in activities which occupy them and allow them to gain a sense of accomplishment. There are many activities that are of no or minimal cost to families such as:

- Take the dog for a walk;
- Go to the beach or local park;
- Encourage your children to have their friends over – know their friends and potential influences;
- Contact your local council for “youth programs” in your area;
- Check the school newsletter or talk to your child's teachers regarding extra-curricular activities that may be on offer;
- Get involved in a team sport or physical activity; or
- Contact your local Parents and Community Youth Centre (PCYC) to find out about local youth programs.

WARNING SIGNS THAT YOUR CHILD COULD BE INVOLVED WITH GRAFFITI



Possession of spray paint cans or other types of paint;



Possession of an excessive amount of large permanent marker pens;



Paint on hands or clothing;



Photos of graffiti on mobile phones or on networking internet sites (e.g. Facebook etc.);



Practicing the same type of scribble or 'tags' on paper continuously;



'Tags' or same type of scribble on their bag or books; or



Engravings on their furniture at home, such as a desk, chair or bed.



LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF GRAFFITI

Penalties for graffiti vandalism include:

Juvenile – under 18 years

- Police caution or referral to a Juvenile Justice Team or childrens court
- Restitution for damage costs; and/or Juvenile detention.

Adult – 18 years and older

- Up to 2 years imprisonment; and/or
- Up to \$24,000 in fines.

Involvement with the courts may also prohibit a person from getting a job or being able to travel to other countries later in life.



GRAFFITI
VANDALISM
IS ILLEGAL
WHAT EVERY PARENT
SHOULD KNOW



www.goodbyegrffiti.wa.gov.au

Crime Stoppers **1800 333 000**

Report offence in progress **131 444**

